

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0463

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MA, US

SUBJECT: ANDRIAMAHAZO-RATSIRAKA RIVALRY AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S.

REF: TANANARIVE 0430

BEGIN SUMMARY: ANDRIAMAHAZO-RATSIRAKA CONFLICT OVER FOREIGN POLICY HAS ACCENTUATED, WITH MANEUVERINGS BY EACH TO GAIN UPPER HAND IN THIS AREA WITHIN MILITARY DIRECTORY BECOMING CLEARER. IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. ARE, OF COURSE, IMPORTANT. FOR EXAMPLE, FUTURE OF NASA STATION MAY BE AT STAKE, WITH IMMEDIATE ISSUE OF RESTORATION NASA COMMUNICATIONS VERY LIKELY INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. POLITICAL RIVALRY BETWEEN GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO AND COMMANDER RATSIRAKA WITHIN MILITARY DIRECTORY BECAUSE OF THEIR CONFLICTING FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS HAS NOW BECOME EVEN CLEARER THAN REPORTED IN REFTTEL.

2. PAPAL PRO-NUNCIO, DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, TOLD ME MAR 18 THAT RATSIRAKA HAD SEPARATELY SUMMONED PRO-NUNCIO, PRC AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADORS TO CALL ON HIM RECENTLY AT HIS HOUSE. RATSIRAKA TOLD PRO-NUNCIO THAT HE IS IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITHIN MILITARY DIRECTORY, AND INDICATED

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HE EXPECTED ASK EACH AMBASSADOR CALL ON HIM. (SO FAR AS

I KNOW, HOWEVER, NO OTHER AMBASSADOR EXCEPT FRENCH
(TANANARIVE 0420) HAS BEEN ASKED MEET WITH RATSIRAKA.)

3. ANDRIAMAHAZO, ON OTHER HAND, IS TAKING SPECIAL PAINS
TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS HANDLING FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
BESIDES HIS EVIDENT DELIBERATE OMISSION OF RATSIRAKA FROM
MILITARY DIRECTORY GROUPS WHICH RECEIVED FRENCH
AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIAL AND COLLECTIVE CALL OF DIPLOMATIC
MISSION CHIEFS LAST WEEK, ANDRIAMAHAZO HAS NOW SUCCESSIVELY
RECEIVED AMERICAN, SOVIET, GERMAN, ITALIAN AND PRC
AMBASSADORS. ANDRIAMAHAZO HAS ALSO EVIDENTLY GIVEN
FOREIGN MINISTER ZAKARIASY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BRING
FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS TO HIM, RATHER THAN ANYONE ELSE IN
DIRECTORY, BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INSTANCES IN
PAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS WHEN I AND OTHERS HAVE TAKEN UP
QUESTIONS WITH ZAKARIASY AND HE SAID HE WOULD PURSUE THEM
WITH ANDRIAMAHAZO.

4. SELECTION OF RATSIRAKA AS CHIEF OF MALAGASY DELEGATION
TO LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE IN GENEVA (TANANARIVE 0454) CAN
ALSO BE READ AS MANEUVER BY ANDRIAMAHAZO TO GET RATSIRAKA
OUT OF COUNTRY FOR WHILE. HOWEVER, INDICATION FROM
FONOFF SOURCE THAT RATSIRAKA WILL PROBABLY DELEGATE THIS
RESPONSIBILITY TO MALAGASY AMBASSADOR TO UN MAY WELL
MEAN THAT HE IS MANEUVERING REMAIN IN COUNTRY AT WHAT
COULD BE CRUCIAL PERIOD IN FOREIGN POLICY DIRECTION TAKEN
BY DIRECTORY. TO DATE, IN FACT, OTHER MEMBERS OF
DELEGATION HAVE LEFT FOR GENEVA, BUT NOT RATSIRAKA.

5. ANDRIAMAHAZO-RATSIRAKA RIVALRY HOLDS OF COURSE
IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. INTERESTS, INCLUDING LIKELY
FUTURE OF NASA STATION. PRESENT MANEUVERING BETWEEN THEM
OVER RATSIRAKA'S DESIGNATION AS DELEGATION CHIEF TO LAW OF
SEA CONFERENCE COULD EXPLAIN DELAY IN RESTORATION OF
NASA COMMUNICATIONS AS ANDRIAMAHAZO MAY BE HOPING WAIT
UNTIL RATSIRAKA OUT OF COUNTRY BEFORE DOING SO. THIS
WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PATTERN ADOPTED BY ANDRIAMAHAZO
FROM TIME TO TIME LAST YEAR WHEN HE AND I WERE CONDUCTING
NEGOTIATIONS ON NASA RENTAL ISSUE.

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